

## Message Text

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43

ACTION DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 ORM-02 SS-15 L-03

SCA-01 VO-03 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00

FBIE-00 SY-05 INSE-00 PRS-01 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

/080 W

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O 251145Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9616

AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 13859

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SREF, RO, TS (RADU, MISHITA)

SUBJECT: ROMANIAN SEEKING ASYLUM

REF: A) ROME 13708; B) STATE 208581

1. IN RESPONSE TO AUGUST 25 REQUEST FROM MFA, WE HAVE PROVIDED ADDITIONAL BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ABOUT RADU WHICH WAS OBTAINED FROM USMISSION GENEVA. AMONG OTHER THINGS, MFA WANTED ASSURANCES THAT RADU DOES NOT HAVE A PRIOR PENAL RECORD AND THAT HE HAD LEFT ROMANIA IN A NORMAL MANNER. MFA CONTACT HAS INFORMED US THAT A FINAL DECISION ON THE ISSUANCE OF AN ITALIAN TRANSIT VISA TO RADU IS UNLIKELY TO BE FORTHCOMING UNTIL AUGUST 30 AT THE EARLIEST WHEN MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS RETURNS FROM VACATION AND CAN MAKE THE DECISION PERSONALLY.

2. USMISSION GENEVA HAS INFORMED US VIA TELECON THAT TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT HAS TOLD UNHCR THAT UNLESS SAFEHAVEN IS FOUND FOR RADU BY COB AUGUST 25 RPT 25, HE WILL BE RETURNED TO ROMANIA. WE HAVE NOT YET DISCUSSED THIS PROBLEM WITH THE ACTING POLITICAL DIRECTOR GENERAL (WHO IS THE MOST SENIOR POLITICAL OFFICER AT THE MINISTRY) BECAUSE WE FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT HE WOULD RE-  
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QUIRE ADDITIONAL ASSURANCES WHICH WOULD AMOUNT TO A GUARANTEE

THAT AN AMERICAN VISA WOULD BE ISSUED IF RADU IS PERMITTED TO COME TO ITALY. WE ARE RELUCTANT TO ATTEMPT THIS APPROACH UNLESS INSTRUCTED. (WE HAVE ALREADY TOLD THE ITALIANS THAT THE MATTER IS URGENT SINCE THE TUNISIANS HAVE REPORTEDLY SET A DEADLINE FOR RADU'S DEPARTURE FROM THE COUNTRY.) IN LIGHT OF ABOVE, WE WOULD SUGGEST TO THE DEPARTMENT THE FOLLOWING POSSIBLE COURSES OF ACTION IF WE WANT TO DO SOMETHING TO FORESTALL RADU'S FORCIBLE RETURN TO ROMANIA: A) ENCOURAGE A UNHCR REPRESENTATION TO THE TUNISIANS STRESSING THE LATTER'S OBLIGATIONS AS A SIGNATORY TO THE CONVENTION ON REFUGEES; B) AUTHORIZE A US REPRESENTATION TO THE TUNISIANS IN TUNIS ALONG THE SAME LINES; C) ENCOURAGE UNHCR GENEVA TO SEEK URGENTLY AN ALTERNATE SAFE-HAVEN SITE (GERMANY, AUSTRIA, GREECE) IN THE ABSENCE OF A FINAL GOI DECISION TO LET RADU ENTER ITALY. BEAUDRY

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PFOR, SREF, RO, TS, (RADU, MISHITA)  
**To:** STATE TUNIS  
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